GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4028
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001
WOMEN MEMBERS IN CENSOR BOARD
SHEELA GAUTAM

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a): the number of total members and especially women members in the Censor Board presently;

(b): whether the Censor Board is not effective in prohibiting increasing violence and obscenity in films;

(c): if so, the reasons therefor;

(d): whether the Government are going to take some concrete steps to prohibit violence and obscenity in films; and

(e): if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (Smt. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a): The present Board of Film Certification has a total of twenty five members out of which twelveare women besides Ms. Asha Parekh, who is the Chairperson of the Board.

(b): No Sir.

(c): Does not arise.

(d) & (e): The guidelines for certification of films, issued under section 5B ofthe Cinematograph Act, 1952, already discourage presentation of scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner, scenes involving sexual violence against women like attempt to rape or molestation and scenes showing avoidable excessive violence in films. Some of the steps taken to ensure strict compliance of these guidelines are:

(i) Provision of 50% of the members of the Examining and Revising Committees to be women tobring greater gender awareness into the certification process;

(ii) Issue of specific clarifications by the Central Board of Film Certification about interpretation ofthe frequently violated guidelines to ensure proper application of the guidelines; and

(iii) Showing of names of members of the Examining/Revising Committee and Film CertificationAppellate Tribunal, on whose recommendations the film is cleared for public exhibition, on the certificates granted to the film, with a view to introduce greater accountability.